

THE SOLEMN PROTESTATION

OF

Miles Prance,

In Reference to the

MURDER

OF

Sir Edmundbury Godfrey :

And as concerning Mr. Roger L'Estrange.

WHereas some Bold and Ill Men have several times by Various but Different Suggestions, and particularly more Openly of late, pretended they are able to disprove the *Account* I gave from my Personal Knowledge of the Murder of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, wherein with unspeakable Grief (though yet not without a firm belief of Forgiveness from Almighty GOD upon unfeigned Repentance, as well as the Grant of His most Gracious Majesty, my Earthly Sovereign's, Pardon) I acknowledge my Self most wickedly Drawn in and Concern'd. And whereas likewise being justly Called thereunto, I did on the 25th of October, 1681. in service to Truth, the Protestant Religion, my King, and Countrey, most truly depose, That about Three Years before that Time I saw Mr. Roger L'Estrange three or four times Kneeling at Mass in the Queens Chappel.

And whereas several Prints intituled *Observations*, and other Pamphlets, whereof Mr. L'Estrange is generally Reputed the Author, have not only denied that the said L'Estrange was ever at Mass, since his Majesties happy Restauration; but also have Endeavour'd to fix Scandals upon me, as if I had Defrauded the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by taking out Silver Screws out of an *Antependium* to the Altar, and putting in Brass ones in their stead, or Reckoning for Silver ones, when in Truth they were but Brass; as also insinuating as if I had made away with my Servant, and had pretended that a Tankard intrusted with me was stolen away, when it was not; since all these Suggestions are not only most notoriously false, and prejudicial to my Reputation, but also tending

ding to Abuse and *Discredit* that Testimony which *Honestly* and *Conscientiously* I have given touching the *Damnable Popish Plot* :

I the said *Miles Prance* do hereby in the presence of the *All-seeing and Heart-searching God*, and of all *Holy Angels and Good Men*, solemnly and sincerely *Avow and Declare*, That whatever I formerly *Deposed* upon Oath at the *Tryals* of *Mr. Green*, *Mr. Berry*, and *Mr. Hill*, or at any other *Trial*, and what in my *Printed Narrative* I did set forth touching the manner and *Circumstances* (as far as the same fell within my *Knowledge*) of the said *Sir Edmundbury Godfrey's Murder*; As also my before-*Recited Affidavit* of seeing *Mr. Roger L'Estrange* at *Mass*, is and are most *Punctually and Religiously True*.

And I further do *Protest and Declare* in manner aforesaid, that I did not directly or indirectly *defraud* Her Most *Excellent Majesty* in the matter of the *Screws* or *Antipendium*, but that the said *Screws* were by consent and order of those that imployed me made of *Brass*, as also that my said *Servant* was upon *Trial* with several *Masters* after he parted with me, and afterwards by his own and his friends consent, & without any *Concerment* of mine) sent into some of the *Western Plantations*, where I believe he is still *Living*; And that there was a *Tankard* sent me to mend, stoln out of my *Shop* in *December 1678*. For which I returned to the *Owner* a new *Tankard*, to the full *Value*.

And as to all and every part of this my *solemn Protestation and Declaration*, as I do hereby under my hand, most seriously *Ayer and Avow* it; so in further *Confirmation* of the *Truth* thereof, I do resolve (with *Gods help and permission*) on the next *Lords day*, being that *Holy Feast of Easter*, thereupon to receive in my *Parish-Church* the *Holy Sacrament* according to the *Rites* of the *Church of England* (which as I can never enough, *Bless and Magnify* the *Lord* for bringing me into, so by his *Grace* I shall never in the least *depart from*.) And I do moreover declare, That as I had not when I made the before-cited *Affidavit* any *Malice or Ill Will* against *Mr. L'Estrange's Person*, so likewise I do heartily *forgive* him all those *Slanders* wherewith he has endeavour'd to *Brand* me, and particularly for calling me very lately *Rascal* in *Print*: And shall implore the *Divine Majesty* both to bring that *Gentleman* to a due *Sense* of, and *Repentance* for all his *Transgressions* in that kind towards *Me and Others*, and to pardon the same: That as (if it shall so happen) we meet at our *Blessed Lords Table on Earth*, so we may together enjoy an *endless Repast* in *Heaven*.

In *Testimony* of all which, from the deepest *sense* of my *Soul*, I have here subscribed my hand, Dated the 14th of *April*, being the *Annal Commemoration* of our *Blessed Lord (the Holy Jesus) his Crucifixion* for the *sins* of *Mankind*; and thence *discreetly* called *Good Friday*, 1682.

MILES PRANCE.

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